

In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 14 with the following rewritten paragraph:

In a third aspect of the invention, an article in a computer-readable ~~signal-bearing~~ medium is provided. The medium may be in the form of recordable data storage. Means in the medium are provided for issuing an operating system ICMP echo to a peer node in a cluster and to a configured cluster gateway through a network interface in response to a heartbeat loss detection. In addition, means in the medium are provided for analyzing a response message from the echo to determine location of a fault in the cluster. Means in the medium may also be provided for issuing an application level ping to a peer node in response to both receipt of an echo response within a predetermined time interval and a heartbeat detection loss.